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AT&T MOBILITY SERVICES LLC

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL WALKER, an individual,

Plaintiff,

vs.

AT&T MOBILITY SERVICES, LLC, a
Delaware Limited Liability Company; ROGER
CRUZ, AN INDIVIDUAL; and Does 1 - 20,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:21-CV-01503-TLN-DMC

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER
GOVERNING THE PRODUCTION AND
HANDLING OF CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION**

Judge: Hon. Troy L. Nunley
Courtroom: 2

1 **1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

2 Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of
3 confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public
4 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.
5 Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated
6 Protective Order. Plaintiff Michael Walker and Defendant AT&T Mobility Services, LLC (the
7 “Parties”) acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or
8 responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends
9 only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the
10 applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below,
11 that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under
12 seal; Local Rule 141 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be
13 applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

14 **2. DEFINITIONS**

15 2.1 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of
16 information or items under this Order.

17 2.2 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is
18 generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule
19 of Civil Procedure 26(c).

20 2.3 Counsel (without qualifier): Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as
21 well as their support staff).

22 2.4 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that
23 it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

24 2.5 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the
25 medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things,
26 testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or
27 responses to discovery in this matter.

28 2.6 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to

1 this litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a
2 consultant in this action.

3 2.7 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. House
4 Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

5 2.8 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal
6 entity not named as a Party to this action.

7 2.9 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this
8 action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and have appeared in this action
9 on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that party.

10 2.10 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees,
11 consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

12 2.11 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery
13 Material in this action.

14 2.12 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services
15 (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and
16 organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and
17 subcontractors.

18 2.13 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as
19 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

20 2.14 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a
21 Producing Party.

22 **3. SCOPE**

23 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material
24 (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2)
25 all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony,
26 conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.
27 However, the protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following
28 information: (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a

1 Receiving Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as
2 a result of publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part of the
3 public record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party
4 prior to the disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source who
5 obtained the information lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating
6 Party. Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

7 **4. DURATION**

8 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by
9 this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court
10 order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all
11 claims and defenses in this action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after
12 the completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this action,
13 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to
14 applicable law.

15 **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

16 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party
17 or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care
18 to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards.
19 The Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents,
20 items, or oral or written communications that qualify – so that other portions of the material,
21 documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
22 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

23 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
24 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to
25 unnecessarily encumber or impair the case development process or to impose unnecessary
26 expense and burden on other parties) may expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

27 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated
28 for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other

1 Parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

2 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order
3 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,
4 Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so
5 designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

6 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

7 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but
8 excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the Producing
9 Party affix the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page that contains protected material. If only
10 a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also
11 must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the
12 margins).

13 The Producing Party must determine which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for
14 protection under this Order before production. Before producing the specified documents, the
15 Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL” legend to each page that contains Protected
16 Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the
17 Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
18 markings in the margins).

19 (b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings, that the
20 Designating Party identify on the record, before the close of the deposition, hearing, or other
21 proceeding, all protected testimony.

22 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other
23 tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container
24 or containers in which the information or item is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a
25 portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the
26 extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

27 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
28 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party’s

1 right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a
2 designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is
3 treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

4 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

5 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of
6 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party's confidentiality
7 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
8 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to
9 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
10 original designation is disclosed.

11 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution
12 process by providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis
13 for each challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written
14 notice must recite that the challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with this
15 specific paragraph of the Protective Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in
16 good faith and must begin the process by conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue; other
17 forms of communication are not sufficient) within 14 days of the date of service of notice. In
18 conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality
19 designation was not proper and must give the Designating Party an opportunity to review the
20 designated material, to reconsider the circumstances, and, if no change in designation is offered,
21 to explain the basis for the chosen designation. A Challenging Party may proceed to the next
22 stage of the challenge process only if it has engaged in this meet and confer process first or
23 establishes that the Designating Party is unwilling to participate in the meet and confer process in
24 a timely manner.

25 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
26 intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under
27 Local Rule 230 (and in compliance with Local Rules 141 and 141.1, as applicable) within 21 days
28 of the initial notice of challenge or within 14 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and confer

process will not resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each such motion must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed in the preceding paragraph. Failure by the Designating Party to make such a motion within 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable) shall automatically waive the confidentiality designation for each challenged designation.

The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges to a designation of confidentiality, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to file a motion to retain confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the court rules on the challenge.

7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order.

7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:

(a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(d) the court and its personnel;

(e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order.

(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

(a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

1 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the
2 Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

3 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the
4 subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as
5 “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order
6 issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party
7 shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material –
8 and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving
9 Party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

10 **9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN**
11 **THIS LITIGATION**

12 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this
13 action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in
14 connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order.
15 Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking
16 additional protections.

17 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-
18 Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with
19 the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s confidential information, then the Party shall:

20 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some
21 or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

22 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order
23 in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the
24 information requested; and

25 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party.

26 (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court within 14
27 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the
28 Non-Party’s confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely

1 seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession
2 or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a
3 determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the
4 burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

5 **10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

6 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected
7 Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective
8 Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the
9 unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the
10 Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were
11 made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the
12 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

13 **11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE**
14 **PROTECTED MATERIAL**

15 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently
16 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
17 Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This
18 provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery
19 order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of
20 Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a
21 communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product
22 protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order
23 submitted to the court.

24 **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

25 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to
26 seek its modification by the court in the future.

27 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective
28 Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any

1 information or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly,
2 no Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material
3 covered by this Protective Order.

4 12.3 Filing Protected Material. Without written permission from the Designating Party
5 or a court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party may not file in
6 the public record in this action any Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
7 Protected Material must comply with Local Rule 141. Protected Material may only be filed under
8 seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at issue.
9 Pursuant to Local Rule 141, a sealing order will issue only upon a request establishing that the
10 Protected Material at issue is privileged, protectable as a trade secret, or otherwise entitled to
11 protection under the law. If a Receiving Party's request to file Protected Material under seal
12 pursuant to Local Rule 141 is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the
13 information in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

14 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

15 Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, each
16 Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such
17 material. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts,
18 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
19 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must
20 submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the
21 Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all
22 the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has
23 not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or
24 capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to
25 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts,
26 legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work
27 product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected
28 Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to

1 this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

2 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

3 DATED: October 29, 2021

SCOTT LAW FIRM, PC

5 BY: /s/ Diallo Scott
6 (as authorized on October 29, 2021)
7 DIALLO SCOTT

8 Attorneys for Plaintiff
MICHAEL WALKER

9 DATED: October 29, 2021

GBG LLP

11 BY: /s/ Jennifer Svanfeldt
12 JENNIFER SVANFELDT

13 Attorneys for Defendant
AT&T MOBILITY SERVICES LLC

14 **CERTIFICATION**

15 The attorney below attests that she has obtained concurrence and authorization regarding
16 the lodging of the document from the signatories to this document.

17 DATED: October 29, 2021

GBG LLP

19 BY: /s/ Jennifer Svanfeldt
20 JENNIFER SVANFELDT

21 Attorneys for Defendant
AT&T MOBILITY SERVICES, LLC

23 **PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24 Dated: November 5, 2021



25 DENNIS M. COTA
26 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____
[print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and
understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for
the Eastern District of California in the case of *Michael Walker v. AT&T Mobility Services, LLC*
et al., Case No. 2:21-CV-01503-TLN-DMC. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the
terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so
comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly
promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this
Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions
of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
Eastern District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of
_____ [print or type full address and telephone
number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any
proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____